

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, lines 6 to 15, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

The invention concerns a filter manipulator and a filter. Filters are used in hearing aids to avoid clogging of the sound outlet opening or vent and as acoustic filters in the sound path from the receiver to the ear. Hearing aids of the in the channel type has a housing placed within the ear canal of the hearing aid user, and has a sound outlet opening facing the inner ear and connected with a telephone or receiver unit. It is a well-known problem that the sound outlet opening is prone to clogging with cerumen or ear wax which is naturally produced in the ear canal. Such clogging will reduce the output sound pressure from the hearing aid and the sound outlet opening must be protected against this. Also, in behind the ear ~~style~~-style hearing aids the sound outlet of the ear plug may be protected from being clogged with ear wax by a wax filter.

Page 2, lines 7 to 20, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

The soft material of the prior art wax filter and the harpoon-shape of the pressing-in peak has the ~~draw back~~ drawback, that the user cannot determine when the pressing-in peak has reached a sufficient depth to draw out an old wax filter. The user is ~~in-at~~ risk of exerting ~~to~~ high a force which is too high, and thereby forcing the used filter further into the hearing aid. This may damage the hearing aid and also it is difficult to

extract the filter from within the hearing aid. It is further a problem with the soft material that new filters sometimes fall out of the sound outlet orifice. Also, the process of extracting an old filter an\_and inserting a new one demands that the user turn the rod shaped manipulator around in order to bring the new filter, which is positioned at the other end of the rod shaped applicator in position for insertion. This action is easily performed by most people, but as many hearing aid users are elderly, this operation could prove cumbersome and the applicator may be dropped or fall out of the hand during the turn around motion. Should the rod shaped applicator be dropped it might, due to its round shape roll along the floor and end under furniture or other objects, wherefrom it is only retrieved with difficulty.

Page 3, lines 8 to 20, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

In a first aspect the invention comprises a filter manipulator for extraction of a used wax filter and for insertion of a new filter in a hearing aid. The manipulator comprises a gripping part to be gripped and held by a user an\_and has a first tool part extending from the gripping part for initially holding a new wax filter and subsequently releasing the filter in the sound outlet tube, vent opening or sound canal. According to the invention a second tool part is arranged adjacent to the first tool part and is adapted to receive and hold a used wax filter in order to extract the filter from the sound outlet, vent opening or from a sound canal of a hearing aid.

Because the second tool part is arranged adjacent to the first tool part, the user is not obliged to turn the manipulator around, when an old filter is extracted, and a new filter is to be inserted. The same grip can be maintained during the whole procedure of extracting the old filter and inserting the new filter. This greatly facilitates the exchange of filters in hearing aids, especially for people with reductions in eyesight and dexterity.

Page 5, lines 22 to 26, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

In an embodiment of the filter, the inwardly-extending gripping-flange at the second opening has a surface facing away from the opening of the filter whereby ~~said~~the surface extends perpendicular to the length axis of the through-going canal. This helps both to produce the audible sound when inserting the tool in the filter for the extraction and ~~it aids the tool~~ to obtain secure engagement with the surface facing away ~~form~~from the opening.

Page 5, line 31 to page 6, line 5, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

In a further aspect the invention comprises a holder for a number of filter manipulators ~~as defined in any one of claims 1 – 6. The holder and~~ has a number of pockets, each shaped to accommodate one manipulator such that the gripping part of the manipulator is accessible for gripping by the fingers of a user and such that an edge part of each manipulator with two

tools extending therefrom is accommodated within the pocket. By accommodating both tools of a manipulator within the pocket, it is assured that the tools do not become contaminated and are completely clean when the manipulator is to be used.

Page 8, line 28 to page 9, lines 2, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

Once extracted from the holder 1, an edge portion 8 of the manipulator 2 having the two tools 6, 7 (~~see fig~~ see Fig. 2) becomes visible. The first tool 6 is intended to hold a new wax filter 10. This tool is basically a protruding part, which fits into the canal 11 (~~see fig~~ see Figs. 2-4) of the wax filter 10 with a predetermined friction fit. This fit is chosen so as to ensure that the wax filter 10 does not fall off the tool 6[,] when handled by the user, and on the other hand the fit must be so light[,] that the wax filter 10, when inserted into the output canal or the vent, will stay with the hearing aid and not with the tool 6 once the tool 6 is removed.